GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
DEMANDS OF CIRCUS OWNERS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Animal Welfare Department has not been following the guidelines/norms of appointing qualified veterinarians;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Association of circus owners have submitted any memorandum to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(e) whether any procedure is adopted by the Government in the assignment of task for inspectors and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received complaints of harassment by the inspection teams; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) The Animal Welfare Board has been authorizing persons as per the provisions of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 to inspect the mode of transport, care and upkeep of performing animals.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum by IndianCircus Federation protests against ban on performance of five animals viz bears, monkeys, tigers, panthers and lions. The matter is sub-judice in the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India.The Federation has also suggested amendments in the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

(e), (f) & (g) The current procedure of inspection envisages checking to be undertaken by a panel of two experts viz one wildlife expert, and one veterinarian from the panels approved by Central Zoo Authority. Some general complaints had been received earlier requesting for further strengthening of system of inspection.